

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE,
THE HOWE SCALE COMPANY,
RUTLAND, VERMONT.

Rutland, Vt., May 28, 1914.

Doctor John M. Thomas,

Middlebury, Vt.

My Dear Doctor:-

I have just received your favor of the 27th and have read the same with great pleasure, also have received the carbon copies received from the various trustees, all of which I have read with interest and will file with the other papers.

I notice in the order of exercises you state, "scripture lesson from the first copy of the Holy Bible brought into the Champlain valley." I think you intended this to be, into the Otter Creek valley.

Yesterday I was obliged to go to Pittsford in accordance with a promise made to appraise the estate of Mrs. George N. Boardman, and in accordance with his special request, and I regret to state that I found Doctor Boardman very very feeble and very deaf. I was almost osrry that I had met him, because I should much rather think of him as I saw him some two years or so ago. I also met Dr. Henry Walker and he seemed to me very feeble and nervous, and it appeared to me that he was unnecessarily worried over this what appealed to me as a very simple matter. I assured him that I could help him out and he needn't give it another thought. He seemed specially pleased at this. Mrs. Boardman's will is a very strange document, but I had with me Judge Harmon, our county clerk and one of our best lawyers, and he stated that the thing could be worked out, as he thought, satisfactorily. I kept in mind all the time the fact that both Doctor and Mrs. Boardman were to endow a professorship at the college and I hope that there will be a good substantial sum left for the same. I shall be pleased to

There is anything that you wish me to do in connection with this stone or the breaking of the ground, as you state, kindly advise. I have just heard that people in "breaking ground", that they often take and just remove a sod, and this is placed in a box or something, and is taken sometimes home to the party specially interested, and that he has used this in connection with some other object. I was thinking of this just for a moment, that I might bring the piece of sod that is removed and place the same in Evergreen Cemetery here in Rutland, as a part of the sod which should be used in our burial lot, which is 50' in width by some 75' in length, and contains the Mead monument and, as you are aware, fourteen members of our family. This thought just occurs to me at this moment. You can have this for your consideration. We will have the little box with the bible which little John is to place in the stone all properly arranged. Your selection of Doctor Barton and Professor Wright, etc., meets with my entire pleasure.

With very kind regards, believe me,

Yours most respectfully,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "J. M. Tuck". The signature is written over a faint, circular embossed seal or watermark.